#### MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper



WEATHER, p. 2

TUES: 42°F | 32°F

Calm winds

WED: 37°F | 29°F

Cloudy with flurries

THURS: 39°F | 30°F Gradually clearing

Volume 130, Number 9 tech.mit.edu Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Can't wipe these memories away

# Only one ticket for top UA spots

#### To encourage competition, UA extends filing deadline

By Meghan Nelson STAFF REPORTER

Only one pair of candidates has officially registered to run for Undergraduate Association President and Vice President this spring. In response, the UA has extended its late petition deadline for the presidential/vice presidential race to Thursday, March 4.

The candidates are two UA senators, Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 of East Campus, who is running for president; and Samantha G. Wyman '11 of Burton-Conner, who is running for vice president.

Election Commissioner Sun Kim '10 decided to extend the registration deadline this weekend. Kim said he wanted to give more candidates the chance to run in order to encourage the spirit of competition.

The extended deadline would

"give time to those who were on the fence" to decide to run, Kim said. Official campaigning begins Wednesday, and by setting the deadline for Thursday, late candidates still have time to campaign before the UA President/Vice President Debate on Sunday.

Kim said that no one has contacted him directly about submitting late petitions, but that does not mean people won't still sign up.

Even if Modi and Wyman remain the only official candidates, write-in candidates could still have a chance of winning. Kim said even write-in candidates can run a strong campaign, mentioning the third place finish last year of write-in candidates Abdulaziz M. Albahar '10 and Tewfik R. Cassis '10. Write-in candidates may also campaign, but they are still

**UA Elections,** Page 9



YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH

**Minmin Yen '11 dodges a roll of toilet paper as she sings** a modified version of "Zombie" by The Cranberries during the Chorallaries' *n*th Annual Concert in Bad Taste in 26-100 on Saturday. Throwing toilet paper and paper airplanes before and during the concert is a Bad Taste tradition.

# Three members of Tau Epsilon Phi named in suit

#### Suit involves Clean Up Boat 2007 sodium explosion

By Yuliya Preger

STAFF REPORT

Three members of MIT's chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi (tEp) have

INSIDE
More details
from the
Clean Up Boat
explosion

been named defendants in a lawsuit by volunteers for the Charles River Clean Up Boat regarding a sodi-

um explosion in September 2007.

In a January 26 subpoena presented to the Division of Student Life, plaintiffs Thomas Soisson and Katherine Nardin requested documents relating to the tEp sodium and potassium drops. Soisson and Nardin sustained injuries in 2007 while volunteering with the Clean Up Boat. Volunteers picked up a piece of sodium, which later exploded.

The lawsuit names Bhaskar Mookerji G, Brian Neltner G, and Matthew T. Peddie '09 of tEp as defendants. Neltner was cited both individually and in his capacity as an officer, while Peddie was named solely in his capacity as an officer.

It is unclear what "in his capacity as an officer" means, said Mookerji. Mookerji declined to

comment further on the case.

The subponea to DSL requests "any and all documents, reports, and records in the possession custody and control" of DSL relating to the tEp sodium and potassium drops.

According to the Charles River Clean Up Boat's website, on the day of the incident, one of the volunteers retrieved an item which resembled a rough piece of styrofoam. After the object was placed in a trash bin full of wet debris, it began to smoke. Ultimately, the

**TEP,** Page 9

# Vrajesh Modi '11 and Samantha Wyman '11 are currently the only pair running for the positions of Undergraduate Association President and Vice President. Both currently represent their living groups as senators. The deadline to file to run for President or Vice President has been extended to March 4.

VRAJESH MODI

#### IN SHORT

Pre-sales for the Spring Weekend Concert, featuring N.E.R.D and Super Mash Brothers, started yesterday at <a href="http://sao.mit.edu/tickets/">http://sao.mit.edu/tickets/</a>. The pre-sale period ends March 19, after which tickets for students go from \$10 to \$15. The concert is on April 23.

**The 2010 MIT Excellence Awards Ceremony** is tomorrow at 3 pm in Kresge Auditorium.

**The Building 54 strobe light** is back, after being broken for the past several months.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

# Back-end changes coming to Stellar

#### Alternatives to Stellar's software architecture being investigated

By Pearle Lipinski
NEWS EDITOR

NEWS EDITOR

The software architecture behind Stellar, MIT's course management system, is likely to change within the next year, while user interface will mostly stay the same. Pilot changes to the system may be implemented over the summer, said Eric Klopfer, Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Learning Management Systems, which is tasked with developing the next version of Stellar, called Stellar

Next Generation.

While there are no plans to replace Stellar in the immediate future, it is likely that the underlying system will be fully replaced within the next few years.

"The existing Stellar is reaching some limits in terms of capacity, pedagogical models, and use cases. As a home grown system, it has become resource intensive to scale, change, support and maintain, so in the long run it will likely be replaced," said Klopfer.

The planned changes would not radically affect the users of Stellar. Most changes would be under-the-hood modifications involving Stellar's software architecture. According to Klopfer, the new Stellar could maintain its old appearance, but run on a third-party platform, such as the proprietary Blackboard or opensource Moodle. IS&T would maintain and perform custom work on the third-party code to suit Stellar's needs.

The LMS Committee has not yet decided which of these plat-

forms would be used, but hopes to have a decision by the end of the academic year.

If the summer pilot were to be implemented with the new platform, it would likely just be an internal pilot with sample courses used exclusively for testing. A pilot program involving actual courses is not likely for some time, Klopfer said.

In the meantime, the current generation of Stellar will continue to be maintained and used.

Stellar, Page 10

#### WHAT HAPPENED TO COMPETITION?

The lack of other UA presidential candidates is a serious failure of the democratic process. **OPN**, **p. 4** 

#### **TOP TEN OLYMPIC MOMENTS**

Canadians win hockey gold, Yuna Kim dazzles, and more. **SPO, p. 12** 

#### **MEN'S BASKETBALL FALTERS**

The men lose to Clark. Will they pick it up for the Div III tourney? **SPO, p. 12** 



## VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

How do you deal with a failed relationship's digital detritus? **CL**, **p**. **5** 

#### BROUHAHA RHYTHM

Puddles, puddles everywhere! The trials of keeping dry when campus becomes an archipelago. **CL, p. 5** 

#### **SECTIONS**

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Campus Life 5
Fun Pages6
Sports 12

# Iranian authorities close two opposition publications

The Iranian authorities on Monday closed two major opposition publications, among the last to remain in circulation as the government has suppressed its opponents' communications in recent months.

Earlier, the authorities had blocked most opposition Web sites inside Iran and slowed the Internet to a crawl to prevent protesters from organizing demonstrations.

Both of the opposition publications, the daily newspaper Etemad and the weekly magazine Iran Dokht, were linked to Mehdi Karroubi, the outspoken opposition leader who challenged the government last week by calling for a referendum on the government's popularity.

The muzzling of the opposition publications follows a ruling last week by the supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, that Karroubi and another opposition leader, Mir Hussein Moussavi, have no place in politics.

The two men were candidates in last summer's presidential election, which they say was stolen by the government.

On Monday, Jaras, an opposition Web site, reported that four journalists and a university professor were released after two months in detention.

— Nazila Fathi, The New York Times

#### Vice Chairman of Fed to retire

WASHINGTON — The vice chairman of the Federal Reserve announced on Monday that he would retire in June, giving President Barack Obama an expanded opportunity to put his stamp on the central bank as it faces a difficult balance between heading off inflation and addressing high levels of unemployment.

The departure of the vice chairman, Donald L. Kohn, a 40-year Fed veteran, means that Obama has three seats to fill on the Fed's seven-member board of governors at a time when the central bank is weighing how aggressively to reverse the easymoney policy it pursued during the financial crisis and recession.

The vacancies are likely to spur debate over the Fed's priorities. With unemployment near 10 percent and projected to remain high for years to come, there is sure to be pressure on the administration, especially from liberals, to nominate Fed governors willing to adhere not just to the central bank's mission of price stability but also its mandate of full employment, a goal that has effectively taken a back seat to inflation fighting over much of the last three decades.

— Sewell Chan, The New York Times

# Greece urged to make more budget cuts, tax increases

ATHENS — The commissioner for monetary affairs at the European Union, Olli Rehn, said Monday that austerity measures announced by the Greek government to stave off a mounting fiscal crisis were "in the right direction" but not adequate to reduce a bloated budget deficit by 4 percent this year and tackle a debt crisis threatening the euro zone.

After talks with government and central bank officials in Athens, Rehn reassured Greece of the European Commission's support for its efforts to revive the reeling economy, but he stopped short of offering an emergency aid package.

He also called for additional austerity measures, in addition to the wage freezes and tax increases already announced by the Socialist government in Greece, but he did not specify what form these measures should take. "I want to encourage the government to announce additional measures," he said.

"Either you control your debt, or your debt will control your economy," he added.

— Niki Kitsantonis, The New York Times

# For districts policing failing schools, Obama backs reward

By Jeff Zeleny
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Monday that he favored federal rewards for local school districts that fire underperforming teachers and close failing schools, saying educators needed to be held accountable when they failed to fix chronically troubled classrooms and curb the student dropout rate.

The president outlined his proposal to offer \$900 million in federal grants, which would be made available to states and school districts willing to take aggressive steps to turn around struggling institutions or close them.

The president's proposal, which was included in his 2011 budget request to Congress, is his latest criticism of America's failing public schools. In a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Obama said federal aid would be available for the districts that are home to the 2,000 schools that produce more than half of the nation's dropouts.

He spoke alongside former Sec-

retary of State Colin Powell and his wife, Alma, who lead America's Promise Alliance, an advocacy group dedicated to combating the school dropout rate.

"We know that the success of every American will be tied more closely than ever before to the level of education that they achieve," Obama said. "The jobs will go to the people with the knowledge and the skills to do them. It's that simple."

He singled out Central Falls High School in Rhode Island, where last week the school board voted to dismiss the entire faculty as part of a turnaround plan for the school, which has a 48 percent graduation rate.

At Central Falls High, he said, just 7 percent of 11th-graders passed state math tests. Obama said he supported the school board's decision to dismiss the faculty and staff members.

"Our kids get only one chance at an education and we need to get it right," he said.

The president's comments incensed the leadership of the American Federation of Teachers, which

criticized Obama for "condoning the mass firing" of teachers at the Rhode Island school.

"We know it is tempting for people in Washington to score political points by scapegoating teachers, but it does nothing to give our students and teachers the tools they need to succeed," the president of the union, Randi Weingarten, said in a statement.

In their efforts to overhaul failing public schools, Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan have frequently drawn the ire of teachers' unions.

In his speech on Monday, Obama said states would be asked to identify schools that perform at persistently low levels, with graduation rates of 60 percent or less.

To qualify for the federal money, known as School Turnaround Grants, he said, the school districts must agree to take at least one of the steps: firing the principal and at least half the staff of a troubled school; reopening it as a charter school; or closing the school altogether and transferring students to better schools in the district.

# 'Hero of Ukraine' Bandera splits nation, both inside and out

By Clifford J. Levy

THE NEW YORK TIMES

STARYI UHRYNIV, UKRAINE — Half a century after his death at the hands of the KGB, Stepan Bandera, a World War II partisan, has not lost his ability to rally Ukrainians against Russia — and against each other.

Monuments to Bandera have sprung up across western Ukraine, his fight for the country's independence glowingly recounted to school children on field trips. But in eastern Ukraine and as far away as Moscow and Brussels, Bandera is reviled as a Nazi puppet.

As his presidency was ending, Viktor A. Yushchenko named Bandera a "Hero of Ukraine," one of the country's highest honors. That touched off a political battle. Already, eastern Ukrainians have held protests, burning Bandera in effigy.

Viktor F. Yanukovich, who succeeded Yushchenko as president

last week, has come under pressure to revoke the award, not only from Russia but also from the European Parliament. Such a move, though, would stir a backlash in western Ukraine.

Yanukovich who is from eastern Ukraine, has criticized the award, but has so far not said what he will do about it.

The reactions to the Bandera honor highlight a schism that has caused so much instability in Ukraine in recent years. Nationalists in the west speak Ukrainian and loathe Russian influence. In the east are Russian speakers who feel a kinship toward Moscow.

Bandera is famed in western Ukraine for leading the drive for independence against the Soviet Union and Poland in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1941, at the height of the upheaval of World War II, he issued a proclamation declaring Ukraine an independent state. It did not

realize that goal until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, but he is regarded by some as a founding father.

"Every people, every nationality, has a right to their own government and their own history," said Stepan Lesiv, director of a Bandera museum here in Staryi Uhryniv, a village in southwestern Ukraine where Bandera was born.

Russia, Poland and Jewish groups see Bandera very differently: To them, he was a fascist who joined forces with the Nazis around the time that they attacked the Soviet Union. Bandera was assassinated by the KGB in 1959 in Munich, where he lived in exile.

Yushchenko's decision seemed intended to secure his reputation as a president who reinvigorated the Ukrainian nationalist movement. It certainly did not escape his notice that the move would enrage Russia, his nemesis.

#### **WEATHER**

#### **Grey haven**

By Brian H. Tang

With weather more reminiscent of the Pacific Northwest. we've been mired in clouds with intermittent rain and snow for the better part of a week. The wind and rain storm Thursday evening sent gusts roaring over 60 mph (97 kph) from Boston to Concord, NH knocking down trees, tearing off roofs, and even sending a shed full of snow tubes flying across I-495. While we got the brunt of the wind and rain, New York City experienced its fourth largest snow storm on record with 20.9 inches (53 cm) in Central Park. The higher elevations of the Green and White Mountains in northern New England received more than 3 feet (91 cm) of snow, a boon to ski resorts which have been desperate for natural snow.

The storm responsible for last week's fury has since moved off the coast, but it has become reinvigorated south of Nova Scotia and has sent an army of clouds back toward us. Unfortunately, another storm currently near Florida waits in the wings to replace it. That storm will guarantee another predominately gray week and possibly some sprinkles or flurries tomorrow. At the latest, the sun does promise to return Thursday afternoon or Friday.

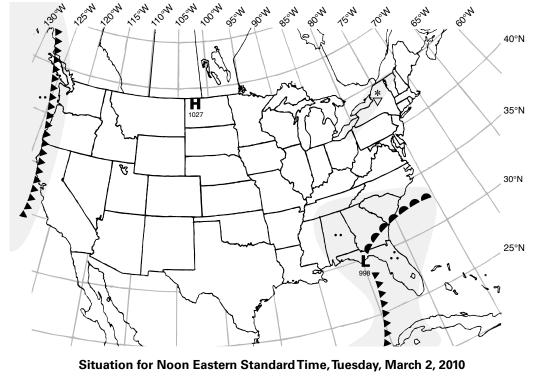
#### **Extended Forecast**

**Today**: Cloudy. NE winds around 5mph. High 42°F (6°C). **Tonight**: Cloudy. Calm winds. Low 32°F (0°C).

**Tomorrow:** Cloudy with sprinkles or flurries. NE winds 15-

20mph. High 37°F (3°C).

Thursday: Cloudy in the morning, then gradual clearing in the afternoon. N winds 15-20 mph. High 39°F (4°C). Low 30°F (-1°C).



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipita	tion S	ymbols	Other Symbols		
			Snow	Rain		Fog	
High Pressure	Trough	Showers	*	•		Ü	
_	Warm Front	DIIO WEIS		oxdot	K	Thunderstorm	
Low Pressure		Light	*	•	$ \infty $	Haze	
	▲▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Comr	oiled by MIT	
§ Hurricane	Stationary Front	Heavy	**	•	Meteo	orology Staff	

## **Data shows Toyota Camrys** not recalled also had problems

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Toyota has recalled 6 million cars in the United States over concerns about sudden acceleration. But an analysis of government documents shows that many Toyota Camrys built before 2007, which were not subject to recalls, have been linked to a comparable number of speedcontrol problems as recalled Cam-

While owners of all makes of vehicles have filed complaints with the government about speed control problems, the analysis — based on a review of 12,700 complaint records in the United States over the last decade by The New York Times – reveals that Toyota had more complaints involving crashes than any other carmaker.

Many of the complaints were about vehicles not covered by re-

The 2002 Camry, for example, had about 175 speed-control complaints. Roughly half of those involved crashes.

By comparison, the 2007 Camry,

which was recalled, was the subject of about 200 speed-control complaints, with fewer than a quarter of

In all, federal safety regulators said they had received complaints alleging that unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles caused 34

last week . James E. Lentz III. the president of Toyota Motor Sales USA, noted that other auto manufacturers had had complaints of

Of the 12,700 National Highway Times, the Ford Motor Co. had the most, about 3,500.

Toyota ranked second, with - compared to 450 crashes

All told, from 2000 through 2009, Toyota had one speed-control crash complaint per 20,454 vehicles sold in the United States. Ford had one complaint per 64,679 vehicles. one per 179,821.

Asked about The Times' findings, a Toyota spokesman said on Monday that pre-2007 Camrys had been investigated and cleared of defects in three previous inquiries by the safety agency.

"At the conclusion of these investigations, no specific evidence of a trend regarding safety issues was found," said Brian Lyons, the

A separate examination by The Times of Transport Ministry records in Japan revealed a similar finding. In reports since 2001, Toyota vehicles have been cited with a greater frequency in complaints of sudden acceleration than those of other major carmakers.

The Times' analysis of complaints in the United States covered those filed since 2000 involving all makes and models of cars manufactured this decade. A complaint about speed control may indicate that the vehicle accelerated excessively or inadequately.

 $The \, single \, largest \, source \, of \, these \,$ complaints was the 2007 model

# those resulting in accidents.

In his congressional testimony

sudden acceleration. Traffic Safety Administration consumer complaints analyzed by The

about 3,000 complaints, but those were linked to far more accidents for Ford.

Honda had one per 70,112 and GM

#### As 'untouchable' army is forced to ebb, power realigns in Turkey

ISTANBUL — The detention of top military officers in Turkey last week was nothing less than a quiet piece of history. The military, long considered untouchable in Turkey, was pushed from its political pedestal with startling finality.

The moment, years in the making, was more whimper than bang. But now that it is here, it raises an existential question for this NATO member: What sort of country will Turkey be?

The question goes to the very heart of modern Turkey, a Muslim democracy whose military was a potent force in the country's political life for most of its 86-year history. Its strictly secular ideology permeated all aspects of public life, including the education system, the judiciary and the bureaucracy. The military, long considered the ultimate guardian of that secularism, has overthrown elected governments to protect it.

Not only has the military been politically defanged, but it has proved unable or unwilling to fight back. Dozens of officers were detained last week, and several senior ones were arrested. Top military leaders met and managed to produce only a brief statement,

"What came out of that?" said Baskin Oran, a professor of international relations at Ankara University. "A big nothing. This is finished. Turkey has crossed the border."

Now the country is shedding its skin, sloughing off an outdated doctrine, but nervous about what will take its place.

"The old ideology is bankrupt, that much we know," said Soli Ozel, a professor of political science at Bilgi University.

— Sabrina Tavernise, The New York Times

#### **Supreme Court dismisses case** on Guantanamo detainees

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said on Monday that it would not decide a case involving Chinese Muslims detained for eight years at Guantanamo Bay that had been set for argument this

The prisoners, captured in Afghanistan in 2001, have been determined to pose no threat to the United States, but the government has opposed their request to be released here.

In October, the court agreed to decide whether a federal judge in Washington had the power to order the men released into the United States. But other countries have recently said they would accept the detainees, and on Monday the justices said that factual developments since it agreed to hear the case "may affect the legal issues presented." In an unsigned three-paragraph decision, the court erased the appeals court decision in the case and sent it back to the lower courts for re-examination.

The case involves prisoners at Guantanamo from the largely Muslim Uighur region of western China. The prisoners do not want to be returned to China, where they are considered terrorists and where they fear torture or execution.

Adam Liptak, The New York Times

## In California, a divided Republican Party smells blood

By Adam Nagourney

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BURBANK, CALIF. — If Republicans are to have a serious chance of capturing control of the U.S. Senate in November, they must win in traditionally Democratic states like California, where Sen. Barbara Boxer, a three-term Democrat, is showing signs of vulnerability.

But before Republicans get a clear shot at Boxer, they will have to overcome deep divisions within their own party — divides that reflect both the grass-roots energy surging through the conservative movement and the tensions between the party's moderate and conservative wings

There are certainly more vulnerable Democratic Senate seats in the country, but early polls in California suggest that Boxer is facing what could be the toughest election of her career. Her difficulties in a state that has for 20 years proved reliably Democratic in national elec-

tions suggests how the pendulum has swung against Democrats in just a year. Her potential problems are a function more of this political climate than of any position or vote she has taken.

Still, for Republicans, this could end up being a repeat of a play they have seen before: a promising opportunity escaping them in a state where Democrats have the edge of 1.5 million more voters registered.

Three Republican candidates are in a lacerating battle for their party's nomination: Carly Fiorina, the wealthy former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard; Tom Campbell, a former member of Congress who fits the moderate profile for the kind of Republican who has won statewide contests in the past; and Charles S. DeVore, a state assemblyman who is presenting himself as the Tea Party candidate.

It is hard to see how Republicans could win control of the Senate without toppling Boxer. Democrats control the chamber 59-41; Republicans need 10 seats to take control, since in an evenly divided Senate, Vice President Joe Biden would cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the Democrats. Eight Democratic seats are considered vulnerable, but Republicans must hold on to at least four of their own seats that appear vulnerable. Even if Republicans won all those highly contested races, they would still need two more victories, and at the moment California might be their best chance to expand the battlefield.

Democrats fear that a Supreme Court decision allowing corporations to spend freely on political campaigns could encourage a flood of advertising against Boxer.

She is clearly aware of the threat to her re-election and has moved forcefully to deal with it. She has already raised nearly \$11 million.

"If you're asking me if Republicans have a chance to beat me, I'm going to answer this way: I never take any election for granted," Boxer said in an interview.

### Despite readiness for quake, Chile struggles as rescue efforts continue

By Alexei Barrionuevo and Marc Lacey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANGOL, CHILE - Chile's government, after initially waving off outside aid, changed course Monday as the devastation from the powerful earthquake sunk in and the nation's pressing needs became

With the desperation of many Chileans mounting, the United Nations said that the government had asked for generators, water filtration equipment and field hospitals, as well as experts to assess just how much damage was caused by Saturday's earthquake.

Chile has always been considered Latin America's most earthquake-ready country. Its children learn to run for cover during quake drills before learning to read. Its building codes are robust. Its disaster manual is thick, laying out all the scenarios for the temblors that are a

regular part of life.

But despite all that, the powerful quake that jolted Chileans awake has left the country reeling. Collapsed bridges and damaged roadways have made it difficult to even get to some areas. Downed phone lines and cellular towers have made it impossible to communicate. And many residents in the most damaged areas have not only taken food from supermarkets, but also robbed banks, set fires and engaged in other forms of lawlessness.

The quake has also exposed the fact, experts say, that although Chile is one of the most developed countries in the region, it is also one of the most unequal, with huge pockets of urban and rural poor, who suffered most in the quake.

It was not just the violent shaking that tore apart Chile, but also the surge of waves that swept in along the coast, washing away homes.

A perception has begun to set in among many residents that the

country was not as well-prepared as it had thought. In Santiago, those left homeless after their brand-new and supposedly earthquake-resistant apartments suffered severe structural damage are furious. Chileans are wondering aloud why food is not getting to the hungry faster and why the politicians and soldiers seem unresponsive.

As each day passes, it becomes clearer in Chile that those needs are huge. The numbers of damaged buildings is increasing, not just from aftershocks but from troublemakers who have set fire to businesses in the damage zone.

President Michelle Bachelet has just 10 days left in office, leaving her successor, Sebastian Pinera, little time to get up to speed on governing. One official in the current administraton, who did not have authorization to speak on the record, suggested that the looming transition was already complicating the government response.

#### 2,000 Dept. of Transportation furloughs linked to Congress

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Transportation said it furloughed 2,000 workers on Monday as a politically charged impasse over unemployment benefits interrupted spending on a handful of federal programs and escalated tensions in Congress.

With no quick resolution in sight, Democrats characterized the decision by one Republican to block the jobless aid and highway construction financing as an example of the practical consequences of regular opposition by Senate Republicans.

In an effort to end the stalemate, Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., who is insisting on a point of parliamentary procedure to block the legislation, offered to lift his objection if an agreement was made to use unspent economic stimulus money to cover the \$10 billion cost of the unemployment aid, which would go to those who have already exhausted their benefits.

"We cannot keep adding to the debt," Bunning said Monday. "It's over \$14 trillion and going up fast."

But Democrats balked, saying that Republicans had not been concerned about requiring Bush administration initiatives to be paid for and that the unemployment aid amounted to an emer-

— Carl Hulse, The New York Times

#### Celebrities fund shows in a new theatrical role: 'Presenters'

Elton John hasn't seen the Broadway play "Next Fall," but he has invested a six-figure sum in the \$2 million production. Jay-Z, Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, and their business partners have put \$3 million into the Broadway musical "Fela!" And Lily Tomlin has just signed on as the lead promoter of a new one-man show off-Broadway.

In earlier eras, when Broadway spawned its own stars, Rodgers and Hammerstein or Andrew Lloyd Webber were imprimaturs of a good show; more recently theater producers have cast movie stars like Hugh Jackman and Jude Law to build an audience. Now the latest idea is tapping marquee names from pop culture as investors and "presenters."

Such artists, who in general have put money into their shows, tend to have little to no creative involvement in them; instead they hope to use their prestige as tastemakers and trend-setters to help shows stand out at a time of declining theater attendance. With only about 30 percent of all Broadway plays and musicals turning a profit each season, celebrity promoters say that they could become a particular help to shows that lack household-name performers.

There are no stars in the cast of 'Next Fall,' so I'm doing what I can to raise its profile with my profile," said John, who is presenting "Next Fall" with his life and business partner, David Furnish, and who recently taped promotional material for the show.

— Patrick Healy, The New York Times

NOINION OPINION

**Chairman** Steve Howland '11

Editor in Chief Jeff Guo '11

**Business Manager** Greg Steinbrecher '12

**Managing Editor** David M. Templeton '08

Executive Editor Natasha Plotkin '11

NEWS STAFF

Editors: John A. Hawkinson '98, Pearle Lipinski '12, Ana Lyons '12, Robert McQueen '12; Associate Editors: Maggie Lloyd '12, Jessica J. Pourian '13; Staff: Vinayak Ranade G, Daniela Cako '09, Elijah Jordan Turner '11, Jingyun Fan '12, Danielle Gorman '12, Ziwei Hao '12, Camille Z. McAvoy '12, Sandhya Rawal '12, Zeina Siam '12, Margaret Cunniff '13, Joy E. Lee '13, Meghan Nelson '13, Yuliya Preger '13, Divya Srinivasan '13; Meteorologists: Brian H. Tang G, Allison A. Wing G, Angela Zalucha G, Elizabeth Maroon '10, Vince Agard '11.

PRODUCTION STAFF

**Editors:** Connor Kirschbaum '13, Aislyn Schalck '13; **Associate Editors:** Divya Chhabra '13, Joanna Kao '13; **Illustrator:** Alison Malouf '12.

 $OPINION\,STAFF$ 

Editors: Joseph Maurer '12, Ethan Solomon '12; Staff: Florence Gallez G, Alejandro Rogers B. G, Gary Shu G, David Weinberg G, Keith A. Yost G, Josh Levinger '07, Daniel Yelin '10, Nina Sinatra '12, Ryan Normandin '13, Erasmus K.H.J. zu Ermgassen CME.

SPORTS STAF

**Editors:** David Zhu '12, Russell Spivak '13; **Staff:** Aaron Sampson '10, Michael Gerhardt '12, Nydia Ruleman '12.

ARTS STAFF

Editor: Maggie Liu '12; Associate Editor: Samuel Markson '12; Staff: Sudeep Agarwala G, Bogdan Fedeles G, Matt Fisher '10, Joyce Kwan '10, Praveen Rathinavelu '10, Joanne Y. Shih '10, Krein Wang '10, Tracy Kambara '11, Sun K. Kim '11, Yü Linlin Huang '13, Emily Nardoni '13, Jenny Xie '13.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Vibin Kundukulam '11, Jessica Liu '13; Associate Editors: Sunny X. Long '13, Sam Range '13; Staff: Vincent Auyeung G, David Da He G, Brian Hemond G, Perry Hung G, Sheng-Ying Aithne Pao G, Arthur Petron G, Melissa Renée Schumacher G, Martin Segado G, Noah Spies G, John Z. Sun G, Scott Johnston '03, Martha Angela Wilcox '08, Eric D. Schmiedl '09, Biyeun Buczyk '10, David Chen '10, Helen Hou '10, Monica Kahn '10, Corey Kubber '10, Alice Li '10, Diane Rak '10, Jongu Shin '10, Christian J. Ternus '10, William Yee '10, Michael Yu '10, Dhaval Adjodah '11, Jasmine Florentine '11, Dan Kubaczyk '11, Michael Y. McCanna '11, Michael Meyer '11, Aaron Thom '11, Allison M. Alwan '12, Yuanyu Chen '12, Nicholas Chornay '12, Rachel Fong '12, Jessica Lin '12, Rui Luo '12, Andrew Shum '12, Meng Heng Touch '12, Jennifer L. Wong '12, Feng Wu '12, Melanie Adams '13, Arfa Aijazi '13, Elizabeth D'Arienzo '13, Cole Houston '13, Elijah Mena '13, Sean Tang '13, Oscar A. Viquez Rojas '13.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

**Editor:** Michael T. Lin '11; **Staff:** Roberto Perez-Franco G, Christine Yu '11; **Cartoonists:** Michael Ciuffo '11, Ben Peters '11, Michael Benitez '12.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Mark Thompson '11, Moya Chin '13; Operations Manager: Sherry Yan '11; Staff: Wendy Cheng '13, Jennifer Fong '13.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

**Director:** Quentin Smith '10; **Staff:** Greg Brockman'12.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editors: Austin Chu G, Michael McGraw-Herdeg G, Nick Bushak '10, Caroline Huang '10, Monica Gallegos '11, Robin L. Dahan '12; **Senior Editors:** Charles Lin G, Satwiksai Seshasai G, S. Balaji Mani '10, Andrea Robles '10, Jessica Witchley '10, Arkajit Dey '11.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry S. Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan E. D. Richmond PhD '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Keith J. Winstein '03, Akshay R. Patil '04, Tiffany Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Andrew T. Lukmann '07, Zachary Ozer '07, Omari Stephens '08, Marie Y. Thibault '08, Ricardo Ramirez '09, Nick Semenkovich '09, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

**Editors:** Aislyn Schalck '13, Connor Kirschbaum '13; **Associate Editors:** Joanna Kao '13; **Illustrator:** Robin L. Dahan '12.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, PO. Dos 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising. subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2010 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

#### **CORRECTIONS**

A graph on page 8 of last Friday's Tech, "Finboard Student Group Allocations," was labelled in a misleading fashion. The right axis, labelled "Percentage Requests Granted (Gray)," should have been labelled as "Percent of Requested Funds Granted." It is the amount allocated by Finboard divided by the amount requested by student groups.

#### **EDITORIAL**

# Democracy at risk in the UA

#### Effective student leaders must earn their mandate

The deadline to declare candidacy for Undergraduate Association President passed last Friday with only one President/Vice President ticket having filed to run. This raises serious questions about the UA's ability to attract talented leaders and to govern with authority.

The Tech believes that healthy democracy requires competition and choice. It therefore strongly encourages other tickets to join the race by the UA's extended March 4th deadline.

Competition forces candidates to refine and defend their platforms. Choice engages voters in the democratic process. Together, these forces lend legitimacy to the elected leader. In their absence, a sole presidential hopeful may grow complacent in his candidacy. Fewer students will vote, as they assume the candidate's election is inevitable. Ultimately, when voters only have one choice, there is no choice.

The lack of presidential candidates

is only the latest in a series of recruitment problems for the UA. In recent years especially, many class council and UA Senate races have been uncontested. This pattern of unopposed elec-

The UA has to ask itself some tough questions. Why is there such a lack of interest in student government?

tions is recurring and hinders the UA's ability to represent its constituents.

The UA, as the undergraduate body's blanket government, has a chance to bring together groups from all parts of campus who might otherwise never interact. When most students want something to happen, but no single living group community has enough say-so to get it done, the UA

can help change MIT administrators' minds. Big changes are always coming in financial aid, the MIT curriculum, dining, and more, and the UA has the opportunity to guide those changes in a student-friendly direction.

In light of this failure of the election process, the UA has to ask itself some tough questions. Why is there a lack of interest in student government? Why was there such a limited interest in the Presidential campaign? Are students simply uninterested in campus politics, or do outsiders feel they have no real chance to win against establishment candidates?

Answering these questions will not be easy. While the Association has taken the right first step by extending the deadline, recruitment is a long term problem that the incoming student executives will need to face. Failure to do so will lead to a decline in the power of the UA leadership to effectively bargain with administrators, and will harm the student body as a result.

#### SITE OF the NEXT TELEVISED HEALTH CARE SUMMIT ...



#### **OPINION POLICY**

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Steve Howland, Editor in Chief Jeff Guo, Managing Editor David M. Templeton, Executive Editor Natasha Plotkin, Opinion Editors Joseph Maurer and Ethan Solomon, Contributing Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, and Advisory Board member Andrew T. Lukmann.

**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to *letters@tech.mit.edu*. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will

not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

#### **TO REACH US**

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to <code>general@tech.mit.edu</code>, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing <code>eic@tech.mit.edu</code>. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to <code>news@tech.mit.edu</code>. Letters to the editor should be sent to <code>letters@tech.mit.edu</code>. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <code>http://tech.mit.edu</code>.

# Rain, rain, go away

April Showers? In March? The misery of puddles.

By Michael T. Lin

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

What Boston rain lacks in intensity, it seems determined to make up for in persistence. Even if downpours are few and far between around here, three straight days of halfhearted rain will turn a grassy field into a swamp and a sidewalk into an archipelago of vaguely connected islands. Avoiding pneumonia being the reasonably high priority that it is, after submitting psets on time and a full eight minutes of sleep every night, it only seems intelligent to dress appropriately for the occasional minor flood.

It used to be that if I looked out the window and saw rain, I'd grab an umbrella on the way out the door and be on my merry little way. Of course, considering that Boston is probably windy enough to break the sound barrier standing still, a carelessly opened umbrella will last about as long as a Spock cosplayer at a Star Wars conven-

tion. The aerodynamic solution is a waterproof coat or jacket, which I've taken to adopting since coming here. For really severe weather, I have a full outfit of bright yellow rain pants and slicker. Not only does it keep the rain off, but it boosts my visibility for Massachusetts drivers and lowflying aircraft. It's also good for keeping dry on water rides at the amusement park, if you don't mind the funny looks (which I don't). Given that most people around this time of year will already be wearing heavy winter coats, though, I suppose it's not wet clothes that are the issue.

As far as rain-compatible footwear is concerned, it seems like most sneaker manufacturers aren't designing with wetweather wear in mind, either because the waterproof parts of the shoe don't come up high enough, or because the mesh of the toe keeps water out about as well as a pasta strainer made out of cotton candy. Don't get me wrong, I love my chucks, but they're not the most water-resistant shoes

in the world. Not only is the canvas porous and the grommets on the side a direct avenue for puddle water entry, but I've had mine for so long that any more wear, and I suspect they may soon start capillary-actioning water up from the damp ground.

It used to be that if I looked out the window and saw rain, I'd grab an umbrella on the way out the door and be on my merry little way.

I've considered buying galoshes, but never really been compelled enough to follow through. At any rate, I have a pair of Scotchgarded hiking boots that do just fine. When navigating a waterlogged campus requires increasing the number of safe puddles until all of the little patches of sidewalk are connected, an inch of waterproofing is plenty. The sauna-like effect that heavy boots have on my toes is a small price to pay in comparison.

Of course, Occam's razor suggests that if you want to avoid wet socks, you shouldn't wear socks. There's something to be said for wearing flip-flops or sandals in rainy conditions. If they're good enough for the beach or the pool, I guess they're good enough for a flash flood. Then again, the practicality of flip-flops in near-freezing temperatures depends a great deal on how attached you are to your toes. Personally, I'd rather avoid any conversation where I have to explain why I'm short a few little piggies. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some engineering to do. I'm certain there's a way to effectively make sneakers wearable in rain, and duct-tape spats are first on my list of possible solutions.

# CAMPUS

**VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS** 

#### Zeroes and ones

After a breakup, dealing with the digital detritus

By M.

As MIT students, there is no doubt we spend a lot of time in front of a computer. We check our e-mail compulsively and procrastinate by IMing and Facebook-stalking former flames instead of writing that paper or finishing that pset. Naturally, the fact that we live with fingers glued to the keyboard affects our relationships.

I met a guy I dated through my computer. Well, sort of. Over the summer, he e-mailed me out of the blue, saying that he liked my blog and that I had good taste in movies. Before I knew who he was, I wrote back recommending some movies. Then curiosity got the best of me and I looked him up on Facebook, and my jaw dropped.

It was that guy I'd seen in lab a few times who I thought was dorky as fuck but sort of adorable.

And then it all began. We'd never talked before, but soon enough we became Facebook friends, we e-mailed, we texted, we IMed. He'd invaded all of my digital media within a week or two. We started going out when he got back to campus. The fact that we'd already gotten to know each other and got along so well meant that things went a bit faster and I fell really hard for him, really quickly.

Which didn't exactly help when he dumped me.

#### I could have always turned off my computer, true, but I'm sort of addicted to it.

After the break-up, he was still all over my computer. I didn't mind it before, but now it was vom-inducing to see him on my News Feed or to get his blog posts on my RSS. Even worse was the fact that he still IMed me. The day after breaking up, he poured

salt on my fresh wounds, by IMing me with me to ask if I was still going to a concert with him — um, NO! Every time he IMed me, it was like having the break-up talk all over again. I should've just signed off.

In addition to having him create new content for me to torture myself with, I liked revisiting old material. My iChat automatically logs all conversations, providing me with hours upon hours of reading and weeping. If I exhausted those, I could always search him on my inbox and his old e-mails would pop up because I never empty my trash. I could also read his blog if I wanted (not that he writes anything interesting, anyway). All of that, neatly archived in my computer for my convenience, made sitting at my desk feel like being tortured on an electric chair.

I could have always turned off my computer, true, but I'm sort of addicted to it. The fact that I check my e-mails compulsively meant that I was bound to see his every once in a while, and being on iChat all the time meant that I'd see when he was online, too. When things end, the last thing you need is to know is what he's up to. But the internet, which makes it so easy to get in touch, makes exes so unavoidable. If I was ever thinking about him, a few clicks here and there and I'd satisfy my craving. That doesn't make moving on any easier.

I found myself longing for the good old days when all evidence of a relationship was on paper form. If this was *The Notebook*, I would run the love letters through a paper shredder, but since it was just zeros and ones, I went for the next best thing:

I deleted everything. Those four-monthold texts that had been simmering in my phone, the old e-mails, the chat logs: Anything with his name on it was gone. I had been putting this off because I really liked him and I didn't want to accept that he was just not going to wake up and realize he'd made a horrible mistake, but as soon as I was done deleting him I wondered why the hell it hadn't occurred to me before. It was



ROBIN L. DAHAN—THE TECH

fucking liberating.

After that mess, I keep my e-interactions with guys to a minimum. I have conversations face-to-face instead of through a computer screen. Seeing what digital evidence of an affair does to me makes me think it's best I avoid that shit like the plague. And that internet affair had made me forget what

flirting with a guy in person felt like. Now I get the butterflies and everything when I see a guy in person, and not online. That's something words on a screen can never do for me.

M. is a junior in Course 10, and she prefers phone calls. Texting is expensive, anyway. She can be contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.

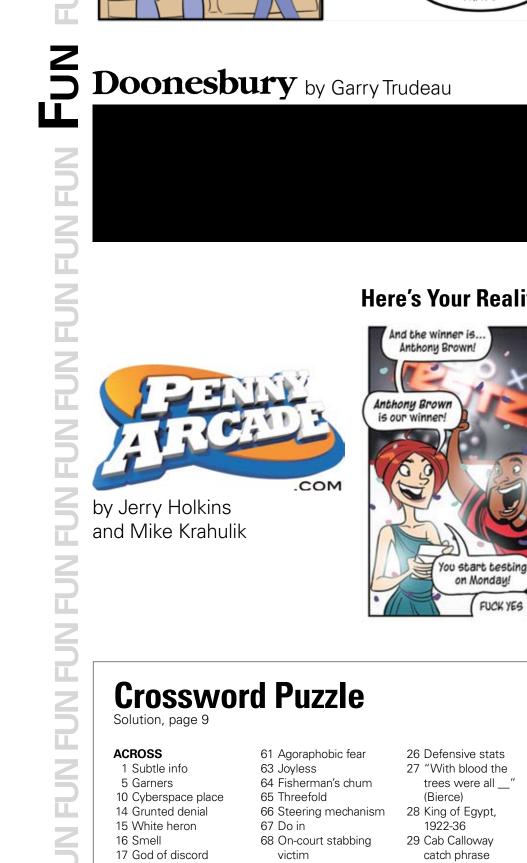
# Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us! Write for Campus Life. join@tech.mit.edu

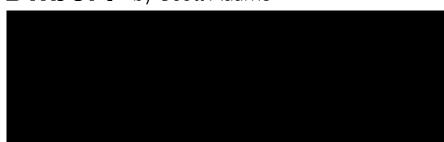
# JN FUN FUN FUN FUN FUN

#### Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo





#### **Dilbert**® by Scott Adams



#### **Here's Your Reality Program**









- 15 White heron
- 16 Smell
- 17 God of discord
- 18 Xenophobic fear
- 20 Short synopsis 22 Comment in the
- margin
- 23 Hotsy-\_
- 25 Acacia tree
- 26 Sure thing 29 Acrophobic fear
- 33 For two, in music
- 34 Tennessee's streetcar 36 Drivers' org.
- 37 Heron's cousin
- 39 Primary color
- 40 Invitation replies 42 Rib
- 43 Put the whammy on
- 46 "QB VII" author
- 47 Arachnophobic fear
- 49 Chicken coop
- 51 Clue dir.
- 52 Fossil resin
- 53 Isolation 57 Addictive drug

- 67 Do in
- 68 On-court stabbing
- victim
- 69 See ya!

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Wahine's dance
- 2 Flapjack chain
- 3 Microwave?
- 4 Triskaideka-phobic fear
- 5 Shot down
- 6 Self-image
- 7 Display
- 8 Part of a
- hammerhead
- 9 Lead balloon 10 "Illness as
- Metaphor" writer
- 11 Creative spark 12 Civil wrong
- 13 Gaelic tongue
- 19 More viscous
- 21 Male swan 24 Aft areas

- 26 Defensive stats
- 27 "With blood the trees were all \_ (Bierce)
- 28 King of Egypt,
- 1922-36 29 Cab Calloway
- catch phrase 30 Le \_\_, France
- 31 Tropical ungulate
- 32 Smart-alecky 35 Form query
- 38 Casts out
- 41 Heliophobic fear
- 44 Breaks into
- 45 Removes from office
- 48 Delicate
- 50 Snooze
- 52 Seasick sea serpent
- 53 Breaks into tears
- 54 October stone 55 "Star Wars"
- princess 56 Be gutsy
- 58 Vicinity
- 59 Slant 60 Thompson of "Wit"
- 62 WSW opposite

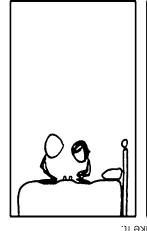
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21			22							
			23			24			25					
26	27	28						29				30	31	32
33					34		35					36		
37				38		39				40	41			
42				43	44				45		46			
47			48					49		50				
			51				52							
53	54	55				56			57			58	59	60
61			ĺ					62			63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

# A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE by Randall Munroe

#### **Sex Dice**



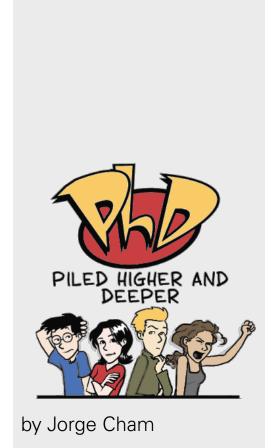








You roll for initiative, and ... [roll] ... wow, do you ever take it.



















Easy Sudoku

Solution, page 9

	6			9		3		
					3	1	6	9
3			4				8	5
	5							6
9		6				7		4
9 8							5	
	4				7			2
5	3	9	8					
		7		4			3	

#### **Hard Sudoku**

Solution,page 9

2		8	9		3	6		
	9		8					
4	5			7				
5					6		9	4
	2						6	
6	3		7					1
				1			5	3
					7		1	
		9	3		5	2		6

Earth Share

# CUSTOM PRINTED & EMBROIDERED T-SHIP RESTRICTED

**SWEATSHIRTS - POLOS - HATS & MORE!** 

- Deal Direct NO Middlemen!
- Great Pricing & Free Delivery\*

\*Cambridge & Boston Area

- Traditional Screenprinting
- Full Color Digital Printing
- Embroidery

ph - 617-625-3335 email - info@qrsts.com www.qrsts.com Somerville, MA



WE LIVE IN THE HOUSE WE choose the world we live in, so make the right choices. Earth Share supports more than 400 environmental and conservation organizations that impact you every day.

Visits us at earth share-org

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

# Official campaigns begin tomorrow

#### Late P/VP petitions due Thurs

**UA Elections,** from Page 1

accountable for the rules.

Modi said that even if he and Wyman remained the only pair running for UA President and Vice President, they would "still campaign seriously" and try to represent the entire undergraduate community.

Members of the UA said that the low number of candidates does not necessarily indicate a general lack of interest among the undergraduates in the UA.

"The number of people who run is not reflective of people interested in the UA, it's reflective of those who want to spend the time necessary," said UA Senator from Fraternities Richard A. Dahan '12.

"Overall, this past year we've engaged the students well. The level of students caring and not caring has nothing to do with who is running," said UA Vice President Margaret K. Delano '10.

Other UA members expressed the idea that students may hesitate to run because of the time commitment.

"I'm personally not interested [in running for UA President]...it's a lot of work, and it would distract me from my other activities," said Senate Speaker Tim Stumbaugh '12.

Even though the election uses preferential voting, in which voters get to rank their candidates, the UA ballot allows voting for only one write-in candidate. Some students complained during the fall UA elections that this procedure forced them to choose between write-in candidates. While "some students grumbled," no official complaints were filed, Kim said, so no changes were made for this election.

The UA will announce an official list of all candidates for the spring election late tonight. Positions available are UA President and Vice President, as well as class council positions.

Electronic voting for the spring election begins midnight Tuesday, March 16 and ends midnight Friday, March 19. Paper voting will take place Friday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lobby 10. The winners will be announced midnight on Saturday, March 20.

# MIT paid \$6,000 to Charles Clean Up Boat in '07

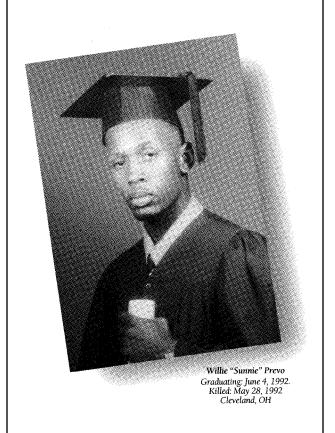
TEP, from Page 1

object caused an explosion which resulted in chemical burns to Soisson and Nardin and to three of the paramedics sent to treat them. State Police chemists later identified it as a block of sodium metal,

Hefty decontamination fees for the Boat also threatened the future of the nonprofit, but MIT made a donation of \$6.000.

After learning of its infamous sodium drops, local media sources like WBZ-TV News speculated that the sodium originated at MIT. The media originally linked the incident to the East Campus sodium drop. At the time, the Massachusetts State Police had named no suspects in the investigation.

The Charles River Clean Up Boat could not be reached for comment.



If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes

#### FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

Ad

U.S. Donastonaut of Transportation

This space donated by The Tech



come celebrate the inventive spirit at the 2010

\$30,000
LEMELSON-MIT
Student Prize

ceremony

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>, at 3:00 PM

WHERE: BARTOS THEATER, MEDIA LAB (E15)

THE WINNER AND FINALISTS WILL DISPLAY THEIR WORK BEGINNING AT 2:30 PM WITH THE CEREMONY FOLLOWING AT 3:00 PM SHARP.

ALL MIT FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



LEMELSON-MIT PROGRAM

http://web.mit.edu/invent

#### LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call:

James Dennis Leary, Esq.

321-544-0012

#### Building Capacity



PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

You can change the world. Start right here.

Serve a local or international community and get support from PSC Fellowships or Grants.

Visit us on the web at http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc
This space donated by *The Tech* 

#### Solution to Crossword

ı	U	v	ıu		v	••	.,	•	<b>U</b>	v	3,	y v	v	,,	u
						fr	om	ра	ige	6					
П	Н	I	N	Т		R	E	Α	Р	s		S	1	Т	Ε
	U	Н	U	Н		Е	G	R	Ε	Т		0	D	0	R
	Г	0	K	1		щ	0	R	Е	Τ	G	N	Е	R	S
	Α	Ρ	Е	R	C	$\supset$		Α	N	N	0	Н	Α	Т	Е
				Т	0	Η	S	Υ		Κ	0	Α			
	S	Α	F	Ε	В	ш	Т		Ι	Е	Τ	G	Η	Т	S
	Α	О	υ	Е		۵	Е	S	1	R	Е		Α	Α	Α
	O	R	Α	N	Ε		R	Ε	D		æ	s	٧	Р	S
	Κ	Ι	D		7	1	N	Х	Е	D		$\supset$	R	1	s
	S	Ω.		Δ	Е	œ	s		Ι	Е	Ν	Z	ш	R	Υ
				Α	С	R		С	0	Р	Α	┙			
	S	0	L	]	Т	$\supset$	D	Е		0	Р	]	Α	Т	Е
	0	ᅀ	Ε	N	S	Ρ	Α	С	Ε	S		G	R		М
	В	Α	Ī	T		۲	R	Ī	N	Ε		Н	Е	L	М
	S	L	Α	Y		s	E	L	E	s		Т	A	T	Α

#### Solution to Sudoku (Easy)

2	6	5	1	9	8	3	4	7
7	8	4	2	5		1	6	9
3	9	1	4	7	6	2	8	5
4	5	3	7	2	9	8	1	6
9	1		3	8	5		2	4
8	7	2	6	1	4	9	5	3
1	4	8	5	3	7	6	9	2
5	3	9	8	6	2	4	7	1
6	2	7	9	4	1	5	3	8

#### Solution to Sudoku (Hard)

			11 011	η ρας	, ,			
2	1	8	9	4	3	6	7	5
7	9	6	8	5	1	4	3	2
4	5	3	6	7	2	1	8	9
5	8	7	1	2	6	3	9	4
9	2	1	5	3	4	8	6	7
6	3	4	7	9	8	5	2	1
8	6	2	4	1	9	7	5	3
3	4	5	2	6	7	9	1	8
1	7	9	3	8	5	2	4	6

# Bose is pleased to offer special savings for all students, employees and retirees of M.I.T.

Receive savings on most Bose products, including the acclaimed Wave music system, home entertainment systems, headphones, and solutions for today's most popular portable music devices.



Bose Wave music system - SoundLink



Please direct all inquiries to the "M.I.T. Purchase Program."

1-800-298-BOSE (2673)



©2010 Bose Corporation. Patent rights issued and/or pending. Delivery is subject to product availability.









#### This space donated by The Tech

# Decision hoped for by end of term

# Stellar committee may implement summer pilot

Stellar, from Page 1

Ethan A. Solomon '12, the undergraduate representative on the LMS Committee (also an opinion editor for *The Tech*), said that the Committee is focusing on integrating various MIT resources into Stellar; for example, making lectures from Open-CourseWare directly accessible from within Stellar.

People working on the project said that the changes would not require end users to adapt to an unfamiliar new system. "It's not our intention to have something that will make the learning curve incredibly steep," said Joanna Proulx of IS&T.

IS&T began investigating the viability of the current version of Stellar in winter 2008. Following surveys issued to faculty and students regarding functionality they wanted to see in Stellar Next Generation, IS&T evaluated six candidate platforms for replacing Stellar: Moodle 1.9, Moodle-Rooms, Drupal 6, Sakai 2, Sakai 3 and BlackBoard 9.

The platforms were evaluated on their ease of implementation and for satisfactory functionality.

Of the six, Sakai 3, Drupal 6, and BlackBoard 9 were selected as potential replacements.

The LMS Committee, composed of faculty, administrative staff, and one undergraduate, was formed in collaboration with IS&T last fall to examine Stellar

People working on the project said that the changes would not require end users to adapt to an unfamiliar new system.

from the perspective of users, rather than developers. "We're thinking about how people actually teach and learn and what we can do to support that. Then we work our way back to see what platform or strategy will support that goal, rather than focusing on the operational side of the platform first," said Proulx.

#### Royal Bengal

Boston's only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

Open Daily Except Monday 11:30 am – 11:30 pm Lunch Buffet \$7.95 Reasonably Priced Dinners 313 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (617) 491-1988 T: Red Line, Bus #1 – Central Square

10% Discount on \$15 (or more) order with MIT ID.

Free delivery for orders over \$10.
Take-out, platters, and catering available.
http://www.royalbengalrestaurant.com/

#### **Eating Disorder Treatment**

Treatment of Adults Suffering from Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa



Informed clinicians refer their clients to Laurel Hill Inn. LHI provides the most effective treatment and deploys the highest staff-to-client ratio in New England. We provide extensive programming in a highly structured and supervised non-institutional

therapeutic setting. Evening, day, and residential treatment as well as weekly support groups in West Medford and West Somerville. Call Linda at 781 396-1116 or visit www.laurelhillinn.com.

## **SPERM DONORS**

s1200

Make a real difference in the lives of families

Receive free health and genetic screenings

**APPLY ONLINE:** 

#### **SPERMBANK**.com

- convenient Cambridge location

It's Jam. Call the IRS and hang up real fast.

Introducing TeleFile from the IRS. If you are single and filed Form 1040EZ last year, you can file your tax return in ten minutes by phone. Anytime. Check your tax booklet for information.





This space donated by The Tech

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

THE TECH 11



A student examines a display of origami submissions at the 9th Annual Student Origami Competition in the student center on Monday. This competition is judged by officers and alumni of OrigaMIT.

## Electronic billboards called another distraction

#### Advocates claim digital billboards, with rotating images, distract drivers

By Matt Richtel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Safety advocates who worry about the dangers of distracted driving have a new concern beyond cell phones and gadget-laden dashboards: digital roadside billboards.

These high-tech billboards marry the glow of Times Square with the immediacy of the Internet. Images change every six to eight seconds, so advertisers can flash timely messages — like the latest headlines, coffee deals at dawn, a cheeseburger at lunchtime or even the song playing on a radio station at that moment.

The billboard industry asserts there is no research indicating they cause crashes, and notes that the signs do not use video or animation.

But to critics, these ever-changing, bright billboards are "television on a stick" and give drivers, many of them already calling and texting, yet another reason to take their eyes off the road.

Abby Dart, executive director of Scenic Michigan, a nonprofit group trying to block construction of new digital billboards in the state, calls the signs "weapons of mass distraction" and says they can be more dangerous than phones.

"You can turn off your phone," she said. "The billboard gets your attention whether you want to give it or not."

Last Thursday, Michigan law-makers held hearings on legislation, the first of its kind, that would impose a two-year moratorium on the construction of new billboards. Minnesota's Legislature is scheduled to hold hearings this month on a similar moratorium. As digital billboards begin to pop up around the country, questions about whether to regulate the emerging technology are being asked in other states as well, and by federal officials.

The Federal Highway Administration has been conducting a study, which it says will be completed this summer, that uses eyetrackers inside cars to see whether drivers who have volunteered for the study look at the digital bill-boards, and for how long. The agency also has organized a tour

To critics, these ever-changing, bright billboards are "television on a stick" and give drivers, many of them already calling and texting, yet another reason to take their eyes off the road.

this spring to take researchers to various cities around the world to study how other nations are regulating digital billboards.

In the United States, only about 2,000 of the nation's 450,000 bill-boards are digitized, but the industry expects there to be tens of thousands of them, as many as 15 percent of its overall inventory.

The signs are typically used in busy traffic areas, where advertisers are willing to pay a premium for them. A digital billboard costs \$250,000 to \$300,000, roughly half what it did five years ago, but much more than the \$5,000 to \$50,000 for a traditional billboard.

Space on the digital signs fetches a premium in part because up to six advertisers can share a single location. Traditional billboards fetch a wide range of monthly rents (from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending

on location and audience) and the digital versions cost the same or a bit more, but the industry benefits by selling that space at that price to more than one advertiser.

Rather than settling the matter, existing research about digital bill-boards leaves room for debate on the danger.

One 2007 study, from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, which used in-car cameras to study motorists, found that digital billboards did not change driver behavior more than ordinary billboards

But critics note that the study was financed by the billboard industry and that it was found to be biased by reviewers who rejected it for publication in 2008 by the Transportation Research Board, a congressionally chartered agency.

Even the researcher who led the Virginia Tech institute project, Suzanne Lee, while defending her science as sound, said that the potential for drivers to be distracted by the new billboards — and digital signs that use video and animation — should be investigated further.

"If we don't study this, and get on top of it right now while the capabilities are expanding, every roadway will be filled with flashing lights and video," said Lee.

For decades, the Federal Highway Administration has provided regulations to states governing freestanding billboards that prohibit them from having "flashing, intermittent or moving light or lights."

But in 2007, the agency ruled that the free-standing digital bill-boards did not violate the rule and recommended, among other guidelines, that ads on those billboards stay in place at least four seconds and that they not be "unreasonably bright."

Last week, the Georgetown Institute for Public Representation, a public interest law group, filed a

petition with the highway administration asking it to reverse the earlier decision, which would have the effect of banning new digital billboards that include flashing, intermittent or moving lights, and requiring the dismantling of existing ones.

The billboard industry argues that the new signs are part of a larger technological and economic shift to a paperless society (no more crews hoisting and removing ads from billboards) and that they give advertisers more flexibility.

Marketing materials published last year by Clear Channel, one of the nation's biggest billboard companies, say the digital billboards are, among other things, ideal for posting game scores by advertisers like radio stations and sports bars. News organizations can also use them — "as the Web site headline changes, so does the digital billboard," the materials say.

The billboard industry argues that the new signs are part of a larger technological and economic shift to a paperless society... and that they give advertisers more flexibility.

"It's a very flexible, very responsible medium and very impactful," said Ron Cooper, chief executive of Clear Channel Outdoor, which has 450 digital billboards and plans to add 150 more this year. Big corporations that have used them include ABC, AT&T, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, General Mills, Ford and

Verizon. "Consumers report seeing it, remembering the brand, remembering the advertisers."

He and others in the industry say they have been careful to make the signs memorable but not distracting. They say the "television on a stick" label is an exaggeration.

"It's a slide projector — it shows one image after the next," said Bill Ripp, a vice president who oversees digital billboards for Lamar Advertising, another large billboard company. "We were as concerned as anybody. We wouldn't want to cause danger."

The industry has found an ally in some crime-fighting groups and agencies, including the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which use the new signs to broadcast images of fugitives or of abducted children.

"We've had moms grab their sons by the ear and drag them right down to the sheriff's office because they were embarrassed to see the son on the billboard," said Bart Dexter, coordinator of the Michigan Crime Stoppers organization, who opposes the Michigan moratorium.

Dart, from Scenic Michigan, said the potential driver distraction outweighs any help the signs may provide in catching fugitives.

Rebekah Warren, a Democratic state representative from Ann Arbor, who proposed the moratorium, said the bill reflected broader concerns that legislators around the country had about distracted driving. In December, the Michigan House of Representatives passed legislation banning motorists from texting, something its Senate now is considering.

"We are moving so quickly into this digital age," said Warren. "We are being cautious in state legislatures around the country on how we keep drivers focused on the road."

# An Olympics to remember

#### Top ten moments from the Vancouver Games

By David Zhu

For the past two weeks, the world's best athletes gathered in Vancouver, Canada to compete in the XXI Winter Olympics (and, apparently, to distract me from my psets). After seventeen days of procrastinating in front of the TV (and enduring countless bad Geico commercials), there's my list of the ten most memorable things from north of the border.

#### 10. The opening ceremony

The Vancouver Games got off to a rough start, from the lipsyncing performers who were completely out-of sync with the music, to the Vancouver Organizing Committee chairman who seemed like he desperately needed a teleprompter and some practice for his speech. The ceremony culminated with a torch malfunction, which left Wayne Gretzky standing there with a weird look on his face and Catroina Le May-Doan posing awkwardly with her torch. The organizers parodied their mistake masterfully in the closing ceremony, in which Le May-Doan got another shot to light a "repaired" torch.

#### ..left Wayne Gretzky standing there with a weird look on his face...

#### 9. Controversies...or the lack thereof.

The death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili right before the opening ceremonies cast a shadow over the beginning of the games, and also stirred up controversy about the safety of the sliding track. The celebrations of Scotty Lago and the Canadian Women's Hockey Teams also stirred up some buzz, and Lago was even sent home by U.S. Officials. However, nobody was caught cheating or doping, and the Games will be remembered in a positive light.

#### 8. Hype

There was a gratuitous amount of buzz about U.S. athletes like Shani Davis, Lindsey Vonn, Shaun White, and Apollo Ohno. The media made it seem as if they were the only ones competing. Some athletes justified it (White, who

earned another gold in snow-boarding and landed the first-ever McTwist 1260), while others either fell short (Ohno, who ended his Olympic career with a few more silver and bronze medals) or just fell (Lindsey Jacobellis, who failed to redeem herself for losing the gold medal in Torino four years ago). There should have been coverage of other athletes and events as well, like...

#### 7. Curling

This glorified version of shuffleboard saw a revival in a country where it's one of the most closelyfollowed sports. From the mad broom skills to the Norwegians' ridiculous pants (which, apparently, you can order online), the concept of tossing rocks at other rocks is just...entertaining. The curling arena also provided one of the most spirited moments of the Olympics, when the home crowd spontaneously broke out singing the Canadian national anthem during a match against Great Britain. (And how cool was it that during the Sochi 2014 video clip, they had a guy curling with Sputnik?)

#### 6. Canada win!

The spontaneous outbursts of the crowd weren't just confined to the curling arena. The entire country embraced the games, with crowds gathering in streets to watch on TV. The Beijing games in 2008 awed everyone with technical marvels; Vancouver surprised the world with its emotion. Although their \$170 million "Own the Podium" program to win more medals was a disappointment and the country waited for days before capturing its first Olympic gold on home soil, the Canadians would win the most gold medals overall including gold in hockey and

#### 5. Russia fail!

The Russians declared they would take home forty medals from Vancouver, and Vladimir Putin even called it a political crisis, but they fell well short of their expectations. Their vaunted hockey team was blown out by Canada in the quarterfinals, and they failed to clinch a gold in figure skating for the first time in decades.

#### 4. Figure Skating

In addition to the failure of the Russians to win any golds, figure

skating events made many headlines, from the perfection of Kim Yu-Na to the courage of Joannie Rochette. On the men's side, Evgeni Plushenko was upset that Evan Lysachek took first without attempting a quad, which brought up debates about the scoring system and "regression" of the sport. At least this time there weren't any corrupt French judges...

#### At least this time there weren't any corrupt French judges...

#### 3. U.S. Medals

In addition to Lysacek's gold in figure skating, the U.S. won its first-ever gold in nordic combined and the first gold in four-man bobsled in 62 years. Apollo Ohno became the most-decorated American winterolympian in history, adding a silver and two bronze medals in short track speedskating.

#### 2. Medal Count

The U.S. led the count with 37 total medals — a record for the Winter Olympics — followed by Germany with 30, Canada with 26, and Norway with 23. Canada, however, took fourteen golds, also an Olympic record. So who really "won" the Olympics, the U.S. or Canada? The question would be settled on the last day of the Games, in the gold-medal match of...

#### 1. Hockey

...where the two North American teams would meet to conclude a thrilling tournament. Canada, fielding arguably the world's best team on home soil in a sport they invented, were the favorites and saw the gold medal in hockey as their right. The surprising Americans, who had upset the Canadians in the preliminary rounds to clinch the number-one seed, surpassed all expectations. The final match, played exactly thirty years after the "Miracle on Ice," was another epic. Canada got out to a 2-0 lead, but the U.S. would fight back to tie the game with 24 seconds left in regulation. Sidney Crosby scores in overtime to give Canada the win, setting off celebrations in the entire arena and country - a fitting close to a memorable Winter Olympics.

# Men's basketball upset by Clark in NEWMAC opener

Offense missing in 71-59 loss

By Russell Spivak

SPORTS EDITOR

MIT fell to Clark, 71-59 in the NEWMAC semifinal on Saturday.



The Cardinal and Gray stormed out of gates, opening the game with a 17-4 lead, and it

seemed like they were on their way to an easy victory, scoring at will. The turning point in the first quarter, however, came after a great Engineer play. Mitchell H. Kates '13 stole a Clark pass and broke downcourt for an open layup, but tripped and appeared to be shaken up. After he headed to the bench, the Engineer offense seemed deflated, and would not make another field goal for over six minutes. By then, Clark was in the midst of 29-4 run, including four consecutive threes. MIT would come back to take the

lead, 47-45, in the second half, but Clark responded with a 10-0 game-sealing run.

MIT was lead by Noel Hollingsworth '12 with 30 points, but injured starter William E. Bender '12 was on the bench with an ankle injury and only four Engineers scored points. Against a good shooting team like Clark, MIT had little chance to win with their lackluster overall performance.

The season is not over, however, for the Engineers. They received an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III tournament based on their strong regular-season play, and will face DeSales University in the opening round on Friday, March 5 at William Paterson University in New Jersey. This is the second trip to the "Big Dance" for the MIT men, and they will seek to improve on last year's performance in the tournament, undoubtedly motivated by this weekend's loss.

#### **UPCOMING HOME EVENTS**

Tuesday, March 2

Men's Volleyball vs. Newbury College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

#### **SCOREBOARD**

Men's Basketball	
Saturday, 2/27	
vs. Clark University	L 71-59
Men's Tennis	
Saturday, 2/27	
at Bates College	W 3-2
Men's Track & Field	
Saturday, 2/27	
NEICAAA Championship	21st of 34
Women's Track & Field	
Saturday, 2/27	
NEICAAA Championship	7th of 34
Men's Volleyball	
Saturday, 2/27	
vs. Elms College	W 3-0
vs. Emmanuel College	W 3-2

## Marguerite Duras' The Lover and La Musica 2

A bilingual (French-English) stage adaptation with music and English supertitles for French portions, with performances by **Astrid Bas**, **Daniel Pettrow**, and violinist **Ami Flammer**. Free and open to the general public with a reception to follow.



Tuesday, March 2, 8 p.m. MIT - Killian Hall (14W-111) 160 Memorial Drive Cambridge, MA

For more information, click on "events" at the following site: http://web.mit.edu/fll/www/

> Co-sponsored by: Foreign Languages and Literatures/French program and the French Cultural Services of Boston and New York



**Neel Patel '12 prepares to hit a forehand in the men's tennis match** on Thursday. The Engineers won 7-2 against Colby-Sawyer.